



IDEA Headquarters
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Phone 956.377.8000
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Request For Proposals Addendum

Addendum Number: 1

RFP Questions & Answers

Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2026

RFP 51-CAT2RFSH-0127 [E-Rate CAT 2 Refresh], 52-CAT2PH2-0127 [E-Rate CAT 2 Phase 2], 2-CAT2PH3-0127 [E-Rate CAT 2 Phase 3]

To: All Prospective Vendors

The following is the link to the Pre-Proposal Conference held on Friday, September 11, 2026, at 10:30 AM CST for RFP 51-CAT2RFSH-0127 [E-Rate CAT 2 Refresh], 52-CAT2PH2-0127 [E-Rate CAT 2 Phase 2], 2-CAT2PH3-0127 [E-Rate CAT 2 Phase 3].



RFP 51522
Pre-Proposal Confere

The following questions were sent in response to the referenced solicitation for further clarification. Questions and answers are listed below.

Question 1: May the proposer identify a named implementation subcontractor whose dedicated personnel hold the required PMP and Cisco manufacturer certifications, with that subcontractor's qualifications, references, support capability, and full scope included in the proposal? If so, may IDEA's written subcontract approval occur during evaluation or award, or must written approval be obtained before proposal submission?

Answer: Respondents may identify proposed subcontractors and implementation partners within their proposal. Any subcontracting arrangement will be subject to IDEA's review and approval in accordance with the terms of the RFP. No pre-award approval of subcontractors is required prior to proposal submission.

Question 2: Does the turnkey Category 2 installation scope in this solicitation constitute public work subject to payment/performance bonds or Davis-Bacon/prevaling-wage requirements? If yes, please identify the affected sites, scope, wage determination, and required bond forms or thresholds.

Answer: Respondents are responsible for reviewing all applicable federal, state, and local laws and determining whether any bonding, prevailing wage, or labor requirements apply



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to their proposed approach. If payment and performance bonds are required by applicable law, the awarded vendor shall comply with those requirements. Please refer to the RFP for additional information regarding Payment and Performance Bonds. IDEA has not made an independent determination that Davis-Bacon, prevailing wage, or bonding requirements apply to this solicitation.

Question 3: Could you please provide the EU POC and address?

Answer: All communications regarding this solicitation must be directed through the Purchasing Department as outlined in the RFP. Campus locations are included in Appendix A. Additional project coordination contacts will be provided to the awarded vendor as necessary.

Question 4: Does IDEA permit a prime respondent to utilize qualified subcontractors or field implementation partners for portions of the installation and deployment services, including site surveys, access point and switch installation, equipment removal, cabling/patching, testing, documentation, and project closeout?

Answer: Respondents may propose the use of subcontractors for portions of the work, subject to IDEA's written approval and the requirements contained within the RFP. The prime respondent remains fully responsible for all project deliverables and contract performance.

Question 5: If subcontractors are permitted, are they independently required to meet the RFP's requirements for SPIN/FCCRN, insurance limits, manufacturer certifications, E-Rate compliance, and the Child Support Certification (Form 1903), or do those requirements apply only to the prime respondent?

Answer: Subcontracting is permitted only in accordance with the RFP and IDEA's prior written approval requirements. The prime respondent shall remain solely responsible for all performance, compliance, project management, and contractual obligations under any resulting contract. The prime respondent must meet all mandatory requirements of the RFP, including SPIN, FCCRN, required forms, insurance requirements, and E-Rate compliance obligations. Any proposed subcontractors should be clearly identified in the respondent's proposal along with their intended scope of work and qualifications. All subcontracted work shall remain subject to IDEA approval.

Question 6: The wireless surveys are to access the connectivity previously established?



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Answer: The wireless performance survey referenced in the RFP relates to the proposed equipment and installation services. Respondents should include any wireless performance validation, testing, and survey activities necessary to ensure the proposed solution meets the performance requirements of the RFP.

Question 7: May the required manufacturer-certified resource for the proposed solution be provided through a committed subcontractor, teaming partner, authorized reseller, or other qualified partner rather than being a direct W-2 employee of the prime respondent?

Answer: The RFP does not require certified personnel to be direct employees of the respondent. Respondents may identify qualified personnel employed by the respondent or by an approved subcontractor or partner, provided the respondent clearly identifies these resources and demonstrates availability and qualifications necessary to perform the project requirements. Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the published evaluation criteria.

Question 8: May one qualified individual fulfill more than one proposed key role, such as Project Manager and Lead Network Architect, provided the respondent demonstrates sufficient overall staffing and resources to successfully perform the project?

Answer: Yes. One individual may fulfill multiple project roles provided the respondent demonstrates sufficient staffing, qualifications, availability, and resources to successfully perform all required services.

Question 9: For a newer small-business respondent, may relevant project experience and past performance of proposed key personnel be included in support of the respondent's qualifications, provided such experience is clearly distinguished from the corporate past performance of the responding entity?

Answer: Yes. Relevant experience of proposed key personnel may be included and will be considered as part of the respondent's qualifications, provided such experience is clearly distinguished from the corporate experience of the responding entity. Respondents should clearly identify whether project references are attributable to the company or individual personnel. Proposal evaluations will be conducted in accordance with the published evaluation criteria.

Question 10: Must all insurance limits and endorsements specified in the RFP be fully in force at the time of proposal submission, or may a respondent provide evidence of current



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coverage together with a commitment to obtain any additional required limits or endorsements prior to contract execution or Notice to Proceed?

Answer: Evidence of current insurance coverage shall be provided in accordance with the RFP requirements. Respondents may also provide evidence demonstrating the ability to obtain any additional required coverage, endorsements, or policy limits prior to contract execution. No work may begin until all required insurance requirements have been satisfied.

Question 11: Does IDEA anticipate after-hours, weekend, school-break, or other restricted installation/cutover windows at the IDEA Lopez site? If so, should bidders include any associated premium labor costs in Attachment K pricing?

Answer: Installation windows will be coordinated with IDEA to minimize disruption to school operations. Respondents should include all costs necessary to provide a complete turnkey solution as required by the RFP. Any assumptions regarding after-hours, weekend, holiday, or break-period work should be clearly identified within the proposal.

Question 12: What is the current routing protocol being used on the network?

Answer: Respondents should propose solutions based on the requirements and specifications contained within the RFP. Additional network architecture details will be provided to the awarded vendor as necessary.

Question 13: May the required manufacturer-certified resource for the proposed solution be provided through a committed subcontractor, teaming partner, authorized reseller, or other qualified partner rather than being a direct W-2 employee of the prime respondent?

Answer: The RFP does not require certified personnel to be direct employees of the respondent. Respondents may identify qualified personnel employed by the respondent or by an approved subcontractor or partner, provided the respondent clearly identifies these resources and demonstrates availability and qualifications necessary to perform the project requirements. Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the published evaluation criteria.

Question 14: May one qualified individual fulfill more than one proposed key role, such as Project Manager and Lead Network Architect, provided the respondent demonstrates sufficient overall staffing and resources to successfully perform the project?



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Answer: Yes. One individual may fulfill multiple project roles provided the respondent demonstrates sufficient staffing, qualifications, availability, and resources to successfully perform all required services.

Question 15: For a newer small-business respondent, may relevant project experience and past performance of proposed key personnel be included in support of the respondent's qualifications, provided such experience is clearly distinguished from the corporate past performance of the responding entity?

Answer: Yes. Relevant experience of proposed key personnel may be included and will be considered as part of the respondent's qualifications, provided such experience is clearly distinguished from the corporate experience of the responding entity. Respondents should clearly identify whether project references are attributable to the company or individual personnel. Proposal evaluations will be conducted in accordance with the published evaluation criteria.

Question 16: Must all insurance limits and endorsements specified in the RFP be fully in force at the time of proposal submission, or may a respondent provide evidence of current coverage together with a commitment to obtain any additional required limits or endorsements prior to contract execution or Notice to Proceed?

Answer: Evidence of current insurance coverage shall be provided in accordance with the RFP requirements. Respondents may also provide evidence demonstrating the ability to obtain any additional required coverage, endorsements, or policy limits prior to contract execution. No work may begin until all required insurance requirements have been satisfied.

Question 17: Does IDEA anticipate after-hours, weekend, school-break, or other restricted installation/cutover windows at the IDEA Lopez site? If so, should bidders include any associated premium labor costs in Attachment K pricing?

Answer: Installation windows will be coordinated with IDEA to minimize disruption to school operations. Respondents should include all costs necessary to provide a complete turnkey solution as required by the RFP. Any assumptions regarding after-hours, weekend, holiday, or break-period work should be clearly identified within the proposal.

Question 18: What is the current use case for 1000eyes? What data is IPS currently receiving, and how are they using it?



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Answer: ThousandEyes is not a solicited product or service under this RFP and is not required to provide a responsive proposal. Information regarding ThousandEyes or its current utilization is outside the scope of this solicitation.

Question 19: For alternative proposals, what term of support and management subscription would you like to see: 3 or 5 years?

Answer: Respondents should propose solutions in accordance with the requirements of the applicable RFP. If proposing an alternative solution, respondents may include any support, subscription, licensing, management platform, or maintenance terms they believe are appropriate for their proposed solution. Any associated costs must be clearly identified and will be evaluated in accordance with the published evaluation criteria and total cost of ownership methodology outlined in the RFP.

Question 20: Are the enclosures requested for the CW9166 APs? If so, could you confirm the Oberon part should be the 1022-00 due to the dimensions?

Answer: Respondents should base proposals on the specifications provided in Attachment K. If proposing equivalent components or alternative enclosure solutions, respondents must clearly identify such deviations and provide supporting documentation demonstrating equivalency.

Question 21: Is the district requiring an on-site pre-installation wireless survey, per campus, to determine existing wireless coverage?

Answer: The RFP requires a turnkey installation and network wireless performance survey. Respondents should include any survey activities necessary to successfully implement and validate the proposed solution. No additional requirement beyond the RFP is created by this response.

Question 22: The RFP references the District's existing licensing agreement for its current platform. For vendors proposing an equivalent alternative solution, should respondents assume that pricing must include all licensing, subscription, management platform, and transition costs required for the proposed solution?

Answer: Respondents proposing equivalent solutions are responsible for including all costs necessary for their proposed solution to operate as intended, including any required licensing, subscriptions, management platforms, implementation, migration, transition, support, or interoperability costs. Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the evaluation criteria published in the RFP.



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Question 23: Additionally, is there any aspect of the District's existing agreement that would limit consideration of equivalent solutions from alternate manufacturers?

Answer: IDEA will evaluate all proposals, including equivalent solutions, in accordance with the published evaluation criteria and requirements of the RFP. IDEA reserves the right to determine whether a proposed solution is functionally, technically, and operationally equivalent.

Attachments: Pre-Proposal Conference PowerPoint Slides

END OF ADDENDUM

IDEA Public Schools
Request For Proposals (RFP)
RFP 51-CAT2RFSH-0127 [E-Rate CAT 2 Refresh]
52-CAT2PH2-0127 [E-Rate CAT 2 Phase 2]
2-CAT2PH3-0127 [E-Rate CAT 2 Phase 3]

Pre-Proposal Conference
Friday, September 11, 2026 @ 10:30 AM CST

Felicia Black, Procurement Analyst



Recording

This meeting will be recorded and transcribed for future reference.

Please type your name, title, phone number, email address, and organization in the chat.

Pre-Proposal Agenda

- Welcome
- Agenda & Solicitation Overview
- Proposal Submission Requirements
- Project Scope and Overview
- Q&A
- Wrap-up



Point of Contact (POC)

All inquiries regarding this solicitation should be directed to IDEA's:

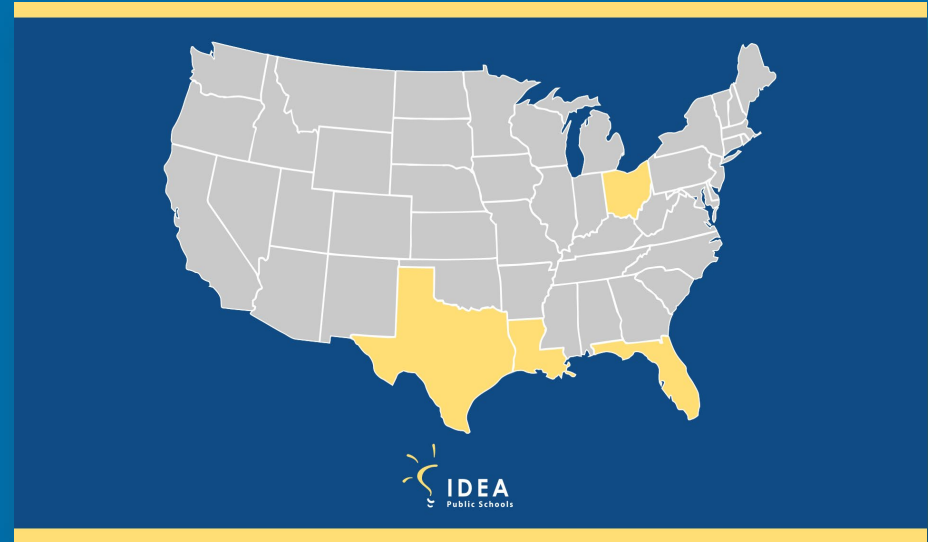
Procurement Department

solicitations@ideapublicschools.org



Disclaimer

- This Document serves to aid interested vendors doing business with IDEA. This Document does not constitute legal advice or bind IDEA in any manner. Anything stated at this pre-submittal conference is not intended to change any terms and/or conditions stated in the advertised solicitation document. Any authorized changes will be made in writing in the form of an Addendum issued by IDEA Procurement Department.



Request for Proposal Tentative Timeline

First Advertisement Date/Issue Date:	Wednesday, August 26, 2026
Second Advertisement Date:	Wednesday, September 2, 2026
Pre-Proposal Meeting:	Friday, September 11, 2026 @ 10:30 AM CST
Respondent Question Cut-Off Date:	Tuesday, September 15, 2026, no later than 3:00 PM CST
Questions Response from IDEA:	Wednesday, September 23, 2026
Proposals Due by Date & Time:	Wednesday, October 21, 2026, no later than 12:00 PM CST
Anticipated Evaluation Period:	Monday, October 26, 2026 – Friday, November 6, 2026
Anticipated Board Meeting & Approval:	January 2027
Initial Proposed Contract Term:	July 1, 2027-June 30, 2028
Renewal option #1:	July 1, 2028-June 30, 2029

RFP #51-CAT2RFSH-0127 Solicitation Overview

This Request for Proposal (“RFP”) solicits proposals for the provision of E-Rate Category Two (CAT 2) network equipment and installation services to support network refresh projects at eight (8) IDEA Public Schools sites in Texas: IDEA Parmer Park, IDEA Health Professions, IDEA Health Professions RO, IDEA Mesa Hills, IDEA Achieve, IDEA Rise, IDEA Toros, and IDEA A.W. Brown. These sites represent the anticipated initial deployment locations; however, respondents acknowledge and agree that equipment purchased under this RFP may ultimately be installed, deployed, relocated, or utilized at any IDEA Public Schools location that is eligible for E-Rate support, as operational needs may require. The project focuses on replacing existing network electronics that are approaching end-of-life with functionally equivalent or superior solutions that integrate seamlessly with IDEA’s existing infrastructure. Services will include equipment procurement, delivery, installation, configuration, testing, performance validation, maintenance, removal of legacy equipment, and submission of required project documentation. Respondents must propose solutions that meet current operational requirements without necessitating the replacement of existing supporting infrastructure or creating additional administrative overhead associated with managing multiple network platforms. The primary objective is to establish a turnkey, scalable, and reliable network infrastructure that supports IDEA Public Schools’ current and future technology needs while ensuring compliance with E-Rate program requirements and applicable FCC regulations.

Note: Vendor must agree to participation in the Universal Service Support Mechanism for Schools and Libraries (known as the “E-Rate” Program) as provided for and authorized under the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Reference 47 U.S.C. § 254, “Universal Service”). Vendor must ensure compliance with all applicable E-Rate rules, requirements, regulations, and mandates.

Vendor shall submit with its proposal a valid Service Provider Identification Number (“SPIN”), a valid Federal Communications Commission Registration Number (“FCCRN”), and a statement regarding if vendor is currently on "Red Light Status" or not.

Submittal Procedures

Due: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 @ 12:00 PM CST

Proposal Submission: Proposals may be submitted electronically using the [Public Purchase](#) or [Self-Service](#) website, or by sending one (1) clearly identified hard copy ORIGINAL of the Proposal to:

IDEA Public Schools
RFP #51-CAT2RFSH-0127 E-Rate CAT 2 Refresh – Form 470 #270000066
Attn: Purchasing Department
2115 West Pike Blvd
Weslaco, TX 78596

Proposals MUST be received by IDEA by the specified due date and time outlined in the timeline. Each proposal MUST be sealed and marked with the relevant information; failure to do so may result in the proposal not being considered.

Note: Faxed or emailed Proposals will not be accepted. Acceptance Period is 120 days from the date of the proposal submission deadline unless otherwise stated in writing.

 **RFP submissions must be clearly marked with the RFP number and title.**

RFP #52-CAT2PH2-0127 Solicitation Overview

This Request for Proposal (“RFP”) solicits proposals for the provision of E-Rate Category Two (CAT 2) network equipment and installation services to support a network phase 2 project at one (1) IDEA Public Schools site in Texas: IDEA Lopez. This Phase 2 project focuses exclusively on securing E-Rate Category 2 funding for the replacement of existing network equipment that is approaching end-of-life with functionally equivalent or superior solutions that integrate seamlessly with IDEA’s existing network infrastructure. Services will include equipment procurement, delivery, installation, configuration, testing, performance validation, maintenance, removal of legacy equipment, and submission of required project documentation. Respondents must propose solutions that meet current operational requirements without necessitating the replacement of existing supporting infrastructure or creating additional administrative overhead associated with managing multiple network platforms. The primary objective is to establish a turnkey, scalable, and reliable network infrastructure that supports IDEA Public Schools’ current and future technology needs while ensuring compliance with E-Rate program requirements and applicable FCC regulations.

Note: Vendor must agree to participation in the Universal Service Support Mechanism for Schools and Libraries (known as the “E-Rate” Program) as provided for and authorized under the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Reference 47 U.S.C. § 254, “Universal Service”). Vendor must ensure compliance with all applicable E-Rate rules, requirements, regulations, and mandates.

Vendor shall submit with its proposal a valid Service Provider Identification Number (“SPIN”), a valid Federal Communications Commission Registration Number (“FCCRN”), and a statement regarding if vendor is currently on "Red Light Status" or not.

Submittal Procedures

Due: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 @ 12:00 PM CST

Proposal Submission: Proposals may be submitted electronically using the [Public Purchase](#) or [Self-Service](#) website, or by sending one (1) clearly identified hard copy ORIGINAL of the Proposal to:

IDEA Public Schools
RFP #52-CAT2PH2-0127 E-Rate CAT 2 Phase 2 – Form 470 #270000067
Attn: Purchasing Department
2115 West Pike Blvd
Weslaco, TX 78596

Proposals MUST be received by IDEA by the specified due date and time outlined in the timeline. Each proposal MUST be sealed and marked with the relevant information; failure to do so may result in the proposal not being considered.

Note: Faxed or emailed Proposals will not be accepted. Acceptance Period is 120 days from the date of the proposal submission deadline unless otherwise stated in writing.

 **RFP submissions must be clearly marked with the RFP number and title.**

RFP #2-CAT2PH3-0127 Solicitation Overview

This Request for Proposal (“RFP”) solicits proposals for the provision of E-Rate Category Two (CAT 2) network equipment and installation services to support a network Phase 3 project at five (5) IDEA Public Schools campuses in Texas: IDEA Weslaco Pike, IDEA Weslaco, IDEA Frontier, IDEA Riverview and IDEA Walzem.

This Phase 3 project represents the next stage of IDEA Public Schools’ network refresh initiative and focuses exclusively on securing E-Rate Category 2 funding for the replacement of existing network equipment that is approaching end-of-life with functionally equivalent or superior solutions that integrate seamlessly with IDEA’s existing network infrastructure. Services will include equipment procurement, delivery, installation, configuration, testing, performance validation, maintenance, removal of legacy equipment, and submission of required project documentation.

Respondents must propose solutions that meet current operational requirements without necessitating the replacement of existing supporting infrastructure or creating additional administrative overhead associated with managing multiple network platforms. Proposed solutions must maintain compatibility with IDEA Public Schools’ existing network architecture and support scalability, reliability, and operational efficiency across all project sites.

The primary objective of this Phase 3 project is to establish a turnkey, scalable, and reliable network infrastructure that supports IDEA Public Schools’ current and future technology needs while ensuring compliance with E-Rate program requirements and applicable Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations.

Note: Vendor must agree to participation in the Universal Service Support Mechanism for Schools and Libraries (known as the “E-Rate” Program) as provided for and authorized under the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Reference 47 U.S.C. § 254, “Universal Service”). Vendor must ensure compliance with all applicable E-Rate rules, requirements, regulations, and mandates.

Vendor shall submit with its proposal a valid Service Provider Identification Number (“SPIN”), a valid Federal Communications Commission Registration Number (“FCCRN”), and a statement regarding if vendor is currently on "Red Light Status" or not.

Submittal Procedures

Due: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 @ 12:00 PM CST

Proposal Submission: Proposals may be submitted electronically using the [Public Purchase](#) or [Self-Service](#) website, or by sending one (1) clearly identified hard copy ORIGINAL of the Proposal to:

IDEA Public Schools
RFP #2-CAT2PH3-0127 E-Rate CAT 2 Phase 3 – Form 470 #270000074
Attn: Purchasing Department
2115 West Pike Blvd
Weslaco, TX 78596

Proposals MUST be received by IDEA by the specified due date and time outlined in the timeline. Each proposal MUST be sealed and marked with the relevant information; failure to do so may result in the proposal not being considered.

Note: Faxed or emailed Proposals will not be accepted. Acceptance Period is 180 days from the date of the proposal submission deadline unless otherwise stated in writing.

 **RFP submissions must be clearly marked with the RFP number and title.**

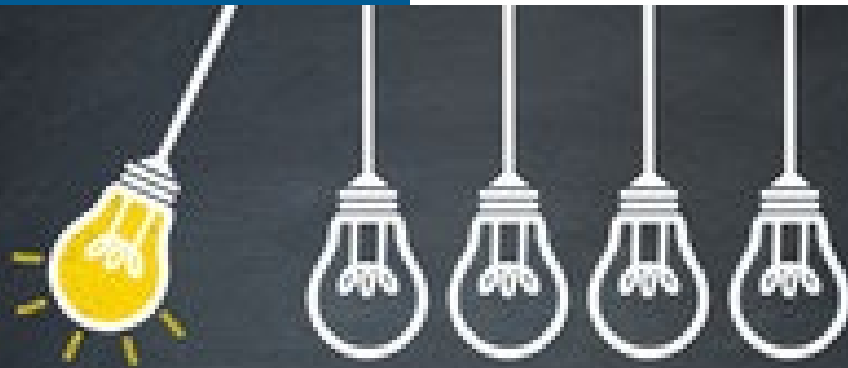
RFP Submittal Requirements

- Each statement must be organized and follow the required format as stated in the RFP
- Each statement must include all the required information and documentation specified within the RFP
- Each section must be appropriately tabbed and inclusive of all required submittals

Evaluation Criteria



Evaluation Criteria	Weight (Points)	Description
Cost of E-Rate eligible Products and/or services	30	Respondent's proposed price of E-Rate <u>eligible</u> products and/or services
Technical & Functional Suitability	26	The extent to which the proposed goods or services meet IDEA's needs. This includes, but is not limited to technical specifications, functional requirements, and service expectations as outlined in the RFP.
Reputation & Reliability	14	Respondent's demonstrated reliability and reputation as evidenced by past performance, industry references, third-party evaluations, overall standing in the marketplace, and previous working relationship with other K-12 public charter schools.
Total Cost of Ownership	10	Total long-term cost to acquire the Respondent's goods and/or services. This includes the total <u>ineligible</u> cost to IDEA for acquiring and maintaining the proposed goods and/or services throughout the full duration of the agreement.
Terms & Conditions	10	Respondent's proposed contract terms and conditions.
Completeness of Proposal	5	Evaluators will ensure that all required elements of the proposal have been included and meet the specified submission guidelines.
Service Response & Support Capability	5	Evaluation will be based on the Respondent's demonstrated ability to provide timely support, troubleshooting, and onsite technical assistance. Respondents must submit a service response plan detailing response times, escalation procedures, and support resources.
Total Possible Score	100	



ANY QUESTIONS?

Closing

If you haven't already, please type name, title, contact information, and organization in the chat

